OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY · OCTOBER 2010

Gaming Safety Tips for Kids, Tweens, and Teens

- Before you start playing, be sure your computer has an activated security suite: a firewall, anti-spyware software, and anti-virus software.

- Use a strong password for your gaming accounts. Be sure your password has at least eight characters and uses numbers, letters, and symbols.

- If another player is making you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult. Remember that you can always kick a player out of the game if they are making you uncomfortable.

- Learn how to block and/or report another player if they are making you uncomfortable. Keep a record of what the other player said, but do not engage them.

- Never reveal your real name, location, gender, age, or any other personal information. Keep your user name vague.

- Use an avatar rather than an actual picture of yourself.

- Do not present yourself as dating material.

- Do not use voice chat when playing an online game, unless there is a feature that allows you to disguise your voice.

- Do not use a web-cam while playing an online game.

- Put a time limit on yourself for game playing.

- Do not accept downloads from strangers. This includes cheat programs that may claim to help you perform better in the game, but really could be carrying malware.

- Do not send out materials to fellow gamers that contains personal information and/or data.

- Do not meet a stranger from your gaming world in person. People are not always who they say they are.

- Know the risks and practice good judgment.

- Learn more at www.staysafeonline.org or http://safetyandsecuritymessaging.org/index.html.

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